

HOUSE BILL 573
By Towns

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 40, Chapter 29, Part 1, relative to restoring the rights of citizenship to certain persons convicted of infamous crimes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-29-105(c), is amended by deleting the words and punctuation "on or after July 1, 1996:" and by substituting instead the words and punctuation "on or after July 1, 1996, but before July 1, 2005:".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-29-105, is further amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

(d) For all persons convicted of infamous crimes on or after July 1, 2005, the following procedures shall apply:

(1) A person rendered infamous or deprived of the rights of citizenship by the judgment of any state or federal court shall have full rights of citizenship restored upon:

(A) Successfully completing at least one year of any period of probation imposed by the sentencing judge;

(B) Being granted parole by the board of probation and parole; or

(C) Being granted final release from the term of incarceration to which the person was sentenced.

(2) A person eligible for restoration of citizenship pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall be issued a certificate of restoration, upon a form prescribed by the coordinator of elections, by:

- (A) The sentencing judge;
- (B) The board of probation and parole; or
- (C) The incarcerating authority.

(3) A person whose citizenship rights have been restored pursuant to this subsection shall submit a certified copy of the certificate of restoration to the administrator of elections of the county in which the person is eligible to vote. The administrator of elections shall verify with the coordinator of elections that a certificate of restoration was issued and, upon receiving verification, shall issue the person a voter registration card entitling the person to vote.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005, the public welfare requiring it.